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Applicant:

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For:

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR THE ELECTRONIC MAIL BASED

MANAGEMENT AND MANIPULATION OF STORED FILES

1 1. A system for management and manipulation of stored files through electronic mail items comprising: 2 3 a receiving portal for receiving from a sender an electronic mail item which contains a user identification, a file handle and a command specification; 4 5 a storage device containing a file corresponding to said file handle; 6 a rights verifier for determining whether or not the sender has privilege to access the stored file corresponding to said file handle; and 7 8 a command executor which executes said command specification 9 on the file retrieved from said storage device when the sender is verified to have the

- 2. The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1 further including a file handle recognizer for locating conforming file handle patterns within the body of the electronic mail item.
- 3. The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1 further including a user identification system which extracts information from the electronic mail item including the from address, destination address, the subject, the

access rights to the file.

- 4 reply-to, and the body of the electronic mail item, to enable verification of the sender as a
- 5 known user of the system.
- 1 4. The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 3
- 2 further including a command parser which recognizes and assembles a command out of
- 3 the information extracted from the electronic mail item.
- The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1
- 2 wherein the command specification instructs said command executor to delete the file
- 3 from said storage device.
- 1 6. The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1
- 2 wherein the command specification instructs said command executor to retrieve the file
- 3 as an email attachment.
- 7. The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1
- 2 wherein the command specification instructs said command executor to forward the file
- 3 to a third party as an email attachment.

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- 1 8. The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1
 2 wherein the command specification instructs said command executor to forward to a third
 3 party a newly constructed file handle to the file stored on said storage device.
 - 9. The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1 wherein the command specification instructs said command executor to print the file on a fax machine at a specified telephone number.
 - 10. The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1 further including at least one of an optical character recognition device, automatic speech recognition device, language translation device, and a file format translation device associated with said command executor.
- 1 11. The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1
 wherein the command specification instructs said command executor to convert the file to
 plain text and email it back to the sender.
 - 12. The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1 wherein the command specification instructs said command executor to convert the file to an audio file and to forward the audio file to a telephone at a specified number.

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1	13.	The system f	or management	and manipulation	of stored files	of claim 1
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- 2 wherein the command specification instructs the command executor to automatically
- 3 print the file and mail it to a third party.
- 1 14. The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1
- 2 wherein the storage device further includes an automatic deletion timer associated with at
- least one of the stored files.
- 1 15. The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1
- 2 wherein the command specification instructs the command executor to change the date of
- 3 autodeletion of the file.
- 1 16. The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1
- wherein said file handle is a uniform resource locator.

- 1 The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1
- 2 wherein the storage device is chosen from the group consisting of hard drives, optical
- drives, random access memories, tape drives, RAID arrays, and storage area networks.

1	18. A method for the electronic mail based management and manipulation of
2	stored files comprising the steps of:
3	receiving from a sender an electronic mail item which contains an
4	user identification, a file handle and a command specification;
5	determining whether or not the sender has privilege to access the
6	stored file corresponding to the file handle;
7	retrieving the file from a storage device corresponding to the file
8	handle; and
9	executing the command specification on the file retrieved from the
10	storage device when the sender is determined to have access rights to the file.

1	19. A computer readable medium having a plurality of instructions stored
2	thereon which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the steps
3	of:
4	receiving from a sender an electronic mail item which contains an
5	user identification, a file handle and a command specification;
6	determining whether or not the sender has privilege to access a file
7	stored on a storage device corresponding to the file handle;
8	retrieving the stored file from the storage device; and
9	executing the command specification on the retrieved file when the
10	sender is determined to have the access rights to said file.
1	20. The computer readable medium of claim 19 in which computer readable
2	medium is a hard drive.

- 1 21. The computer readable medium of claim 19 in which the computer 2 readable medium is an optical drive.
- 1 22. The computer readable medium of claim 19 in which the computer 2 readable medium is a Random Access Memory.

- 1 23. The computer readable medium of claim 19 in which the computer
- 2 readable medium is a Read Only Memory.
- 1 24. The computer readable medium of claim 19 in which the computer
- 2 readable medium is a tape drive.

1	25. A processor and memory configured to perform the steps of:				
2	receiving from a sender an electronic mail item which contains an				
3	user identification, a file handle, and a command specification;				
4	determining whether or not the sender has privilege to access a file				
5	stored on a storage device corresponding to the file handle;				
6	retrieving the stored file from the storage device; and				
7	executing the command specification on the retrieved file when the				
8	sender is determined to have the access rights to the file.				
1	26. The processor and memory of claim 25 in which the processor				
2	and memory are incorporated into a personal computer.				
1	27. The processor and memory of claim 25 in which the processor and				
2	memory are incorporated into a programmable logic controller.				
1 2	28. The processor and memory of claim 25 in which the processor and memory are incorporated into a single board computer.				
1	29. The processor and memory of claim 25 in which the processor and				
2	memory are incorporated into an array of network servers.				